

Applicants additionally contend that there is no motivation for combining the teachings of *Sanduja*, *Kreiser*, and *Mao*. *Mao* is directed to a landfill system and method for constructing a landfill system as opposed to the coated flexible low density polymeric foam as claimed in the present application. Furthermore, the coating discussed in *Mao* is applied to a membrane formed from either fiber glass, polyester, nylon and like synthetic fibers which can be woven to provide a textile fabric (col. 5, ll. 13-16), and not the claimed flexible foamed product as recited in the present application. Thus one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teaching of *Mao* with that of *Sanduja* and *Kreiser* since the art neither teaches or suggests that a flexidizing agent can be added to a coating applied to a foam.

Additionally, neither *Kreiser* or *Sanduja* suggest the desirability of a flexible coating applied to a foam substrate. *Kreiser* does not teach or suggest a coating applied to a foam or the need for such a coating. The flexible coating of the low density polymeric foam claimed in the present application imparts toughness without sacrificing flexibility to the foamed substrate. *Sanduja* is directed to a coating that may be printed upon and that can be applied to a heat shrinkable polyolefin tubing, plastic or wood (col. 3, ll. 45-46; col. 4, l. 5). The *Sanduja* coating is for providing a printable surface. A flexible coating would not be needed nor desired for coating wood or plastic since such are substantially rigid. One of ordinary skill in the art would not combine a references which neither teach or suggest a flexible coating applied to a foamed substrate to render obvious the which is claimed in the present application.

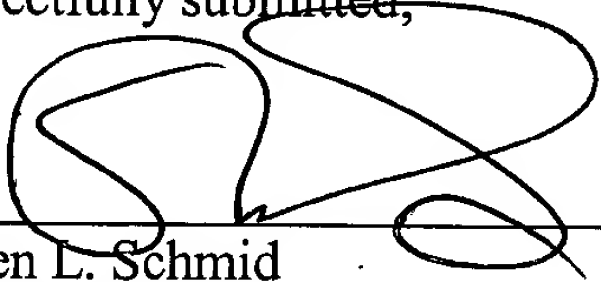
The claims, as amended, include the limitation of a flexidizing agent including latex added to the coating of the low density polymeric foam. The combined art fails to teach or suggest such a coated foam structure.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1 – 3, 6 – 14, and 31 – 39 remain pending in the present application. Applicants urge that the present application is now in a condition for an allowance and an early notice of such is earnestly solicited. However, if it is believed that any issues remain unresolved in the present application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

7/11/03
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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